

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The preceding amendments and following remarks are submitted in response to the Office Action mailed February 3, 2006, setting a three-month shortened statutory period for response ending May 3, 2006. Claims 1-3, 6-7, 10-11, and 17 remain pending in the Application, and claim 17 has been amended with this Response. Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1-3, 6, 7, 10 and 11.

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 17 has been amended, and Applicants respectfully assert that the amendment places this claim in condition for allowance.

Applicants also assert that, with the Examiner indicating that independent claim 1 is allowable, the claims that are directed to non-elected species but are dependent on allowable generic claim 1 are now allowable. Specifically, Applicants assert that withdrawn claims 5, 8, 9, 12 and 13 are in condition for allowance. See 37 C.F.R. 1.141.

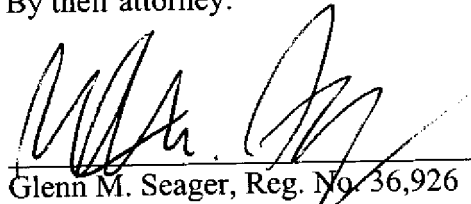
In view of the foregoing, claims 1-3, 5-13 and 17 are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. If the Examiner would like to discuss the application or its examination in any way, please call the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully Submitted,

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By their attorney:

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